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Title

Hydro-mount

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of , filed . The disclosures of the above application(s) is (are) incorporated herein by reference.

Description

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a hydro-mount ~~including~~ comprising a support bearing and an end bearing which support each other by means of a spring element made of a resilient material, wherein the spring element encloses a work space filled with a damping liquid.

Prior Art

Background of the Invention

~~Hydro-mounts of the afore-indicated kind~~ are generally known, for example, from EP 0 547 287 B1. AThe spring element of athe prior-art hydro-mounts in most cases

consists of natural rubber or EPDM, because these ~~aforsaid~~ materials are ~~being~~ heat-resistant up to a temperature of ~~at the most~~ about 150 °C. Exposure of these materials to temperatures above 150 °C, however, results in adversely modified use properties and/or a destruction of the material.

The afore-mentioned heat resistance is insufficient especially when a hydro-mount is used as an engine mount in modern motor vehicles. In modern motor vehicles, the engine compartments are often extensively enclosed in order to reduce sound emissions from the engine compartment into the surroundings as efficiently as possible. Moreover, engine compartments are becoming smaller and smaller so as to be able to meet the increasing requirements placed on motor vehicle aerodynamics-. For these reasons, high temperatures are not sufficiently kept away from the hydro-mount and dissipated to the surroundings.

Further, ~~H~~heat shields used to protect hydro-mounts are not ~~very~~ satisfactory, because they require additional installation space, and their separate fabrication leads to increased costs.

~~Presentation of the Invention~~

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The objects of the invention are ~~is~~ to provide ~~further develop~~ a hydro-mount of the ~~afore-indicated kind~~ so that it can be exposed to temperatures appreciably above 150 °C, without adversely affecting its use properties and/or its service life, and ~~seto~~ to provide a hydro-mount that it does not have larger dimensions than the common prior-art hydro-mounts.

~~According to the invention, this objective is reached by means of a hydro-mount according to Claim 1. Advantageous embodiments are covered by the subclaims.~~

To reach the abovesaid objectives, athe spring element is made of a high temperature-resistant material, preferably a silicone elastomer; ~~the~~ The side of thesaid spring element ~~facing the~~ a work space that is being provided with a protective layer consisting of a material that is resistant and impervious to athe damping liquid.

The spring element made of silicone can be exposed to much higher temperatures in comparison to~~than can~~ a spring element made of, for example, EPDM without its use properties being adversely affected and/or its service life shortened. With the aid of the spring element consisting of a silicone elastomer, the hydro-mount of the present invention can readily be exposed to temperatures ~~in the range of~~ up to 200 °C, and is ~~thus intended for~~ can be used as an engine mount in very compact and/or fully enclosed engine compartments. The protective layer is provided, because the commonly available, inexpensive silicone materials are not resistant to the damping liquid present within the work space of hydro-mounts. The damping liquid in most cases consists of a mixture of glycol and water. Without a protective layer, this mixture would penetrate into the surfaces of silicone spring elements and, during use, would diffuse through them.

~~The use of special silicone blends and/or a special damping liquid to avoid these problems is unsatisfactory from an economic standpoint.~~

The protective layer is provided for the purpose of protecting the surface of the silicone spring element facing the work space. The protective layer can be made of a material usually employed for spring elements, for example of natural rubber or EPDM,

because these materials haveing already been shown to be suitable for fabricating hydro-mount spring elements. That is, ~~T~~these materials are resistant to the damping liquid and are impervious thereto.

The protective layer is sized so that it exerts only a negligible effect on the use properties of the hydro-mount.

~~As is usual for conventional hydro-mounts,~~ The spring element can be configured essentially as a truncated cone. It should be understood, however, that ~~T~~those skilled in the art of designing hydro-mounts can adapt the configuration and/or sizing of the spring element to anythe particular application in question ~~without having to show inventive activity~~. As far as the design and/or sizing is concerned, however, there are no pronounced differences between EPDM spring elements and silicone spring elements so that the geometries of known~~proven~~ EPDM spring elements can be applied to silicone spring elements without making any essential design changes.

The spring element and the protective layer can be bonded by adhesion. This ~~is~~has the advantageous in that the use properties of the hydro-mount are easier to predict, because there is no mechanical interlocking between the spring element and the protective layer. The different materials constituting the spring element and the protective layer are located in clearly separated regions. There is no region wherein the material constituting the spring element and the material from which the protective layer is made exist side-by-side, for example owing to frictional interlocking.

Adhesive bonding between the spring element and the protective layer can be achieved, for example, by spraying, during a first step of the process, the thin, cup-

shaped protective layer of, for example, EPDM. In a second processing step, the silicone spring element is sprayed onto the protective layer which results in adhesive bonding in the region of the two mutually facing surfaces of the protective layer and the spring element. A reversal of the processing steps whereby the silicone spring element is sprayed in the first processing step and, in a second processing step, the protective layer of a relatively harder material, for example EPDM, is sprayed onto the silicone spring element is, in general, possible, but considering that during the spraying the comparatively softer silicone would cause the thin, harder layer of EPDM to wrinkle, such a process would not be without problems.

In another embodiment, the spring element and the protective layer can be connected to each other without adhering. That is, the spring element and the protective layer can be connected non-adhesively. In contrast to the adhesive connection between the spring element and the protective layer, the advantage of such an embodiment is that the spring element and the protective layer are fabricated separately and are assembled during the installation of the hydro-mount.

According to an another advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the protective layer completely covers the entire surface of the spring element facing the work space. Moreover, A partly touching protective layer can provide additionally improved use properties.

The protective layer preferably consists of EPDM. This provides an advantage is in that, compared to a protective layer of natural rubber, EPDM is somewhat more heat resistant, and, as a result, the entire hydro-mount can be exposed to higher

temperatures. At any rate, the temperature of the protective layer is below its critical range of 120 to 150 °C even when the spring element is externally exposed to a temperature of up to 200 °C. The spring element, therefore, is responsible for the good use properties of the hydro-mount, namely its high heat resistance and advantageous spring action. The protective layer also provides sufficient resistance to the damping liquid.

The ratio of the thickness of the spring element at its thickest point to the thickness of the protective layer, both considered in the longitudinal direction of the hydro-mount, can amount to at least 2. Preferably this ratio amounts to at least 8. The smallest possible thickness of the protective layer depends exclusively on the resistance of the protective layer to the damping liquid. ~~In this respect, the protective layer has no other purpose.~~ The lower the thickness of the protective layer, the smaller is the effect of the protective layer on the use properties of the spring element

Preferably, the protective layer has a thickness from 1 to 4 mm.

The protective layer can have the same thickness in all parts thereof. This simplifies the fabrication of the hydro-mount, thus reducing its overall cost. Moreover, the effects of the protective layer on the use properties of the hydro-mount are then more predictable.

[0001] Further areas of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description provided hereinafter. It should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating the preferred

embodiment of the invention, are intended for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

Brief Description of the Drawings

~~In the following, an embodiment of the hydro-mount of the invention is described in greater detail by reference to the figure. This figure shows schematically:~~

The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description and the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 depicts an embodiment of a hydro-mount according to a principle of the present invention wherein the spring element and the protective layer are adhesively bonded together.

~~Execution of the Invention~~

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The following description of the preferred embodiment(s) is merely exemplary in nature and is in no way intended to limit the invention, its application, or uses.

Figure 1 shows a hydro-mount according to a principle of the present invention~~which in its general configuration corresponds to conventional hydro-mounts.~~

The hydro-mount comprises a support bearing 1 and an end bearing 2 that support each other by means of spring element 3. Support bearing 1, end bearing 2, and an air bellows 9 that accommodates volume without pressure enclose a work space 5 and equalizing space 8 which are filled with a damping liquid 4 and are separated from each

other by a partition 10. In the embodiment shown here, partition 10 consists of a jet cage 11 within which is disposed a membrane 12 capable of vibrating in a direction ~~13 of the vibrations introduced~~. Membrane 12 is surrounded radially on the outside by a damping channel 14 which connects the work space 5 and equalizing space 8, allowing flow to occur between them.

To damp vibrations of low frequency and high amplitude, ~~at~~ the column of damping liquid present within the damping channel 14 is displaced back and forth between the work space 5 and equalizing space 8 in a phase ~~opposedition~~ to the vibrations introduced. To isolate the high-frequency, low-amplitude vibrations, the membrane 12 can move within jet cage 11 back and forth in a phase ~~opposedition~~ to the vibrations introduced. The configuration of partition 10 is not limited and can be configured as in any desired manner known in the art ~~and it can correspond to the sufficiently known prior-art partitions for hydro-mounts~~.

Spring element 3 is made of silicone and, on ~~at~~ the side facing work space 5, is provided with a protective layer 6 which, in this embodiment, consists of EPDM.

The Ssurface 7 of the spring element 3 that facesing the work space 5 is completely covered by, and in touching contact with, a protective layer 6. In this manner, the surface 7 of the spring element 3 that facesing the work space 5 is optimally protected from exposure to the damping liquid 4, and undesirable noise during operation of the hydro-mount is prevented.

In this embodiment, the spring element 3 and protective layer 6 are adhesively connected to each other, with the protective layer of EPDM being sprayed in a first

processing step. After the surface of protective layer 6 has solidified, the spring element 3 that consists of silicone is sprayed onto the protective layer 6. The spraying is carried out with the aid of an appropriate adhesion promoter.

~~In the embodiment shown here, t~~The ratio of a thickness of the spring element 3 at its thickest point to ~~a~~the thickness of protective layer 6, in both cases considered in the longitudinal direction of the hydro-mount, amounts to 15, with all parts of the protective layer 6 having the same thickness.

According to the principles of the present invention, the advantages of the ~~claimed~~ hydro-mount ~~are to be seen in the facts that the said~~ hydro-mount can be left exposed from the outside, for example from the engine compartment of a motor vehicle, and through the spring element 3 made of silicone, to high temperatures ~~in the range of up to~~ 200 °C, and that the spring element 3 made of silicone is neither attacked nor penetrated by the damping liquid 4. Further, ~~in view of the fact that the protective layer 6 protects the spring element 3 from exposure to the damping liquid 4, expensive special materials to protect for the spring element 3 and/or a special and also expensive damping liquid 4 are not necessary.~~ Hence, the hydro-mount can be fabricated economically.

The description of the invention is merely exemplary in nature and, thus, variations that do not depart from the gist of the invention are intended to be within the scope of the invention. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Hydro-mount comprising a support bearing and an end bearing which support each other by means of a spring element made of a resilient material, the spring element enclosing a work space filled with a damping liquid, characterized in that the spring element (3) is made of a material resistant to high temperatures and that on the side facing the work space (5) said spring element is provided with a protective layer (6) made of a material that is resistant to the damping liquid (4) and impervious thereto.

2. Hydro-mount according to Claim 1, characterized in that the spring element (3) is made of a silicone elastomer.

3. Hydro-mount according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the spring element (3) is configured essentially in the form of a truncated cone.

4. Hydro-mount according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the spring element (3) and the protective layer (6) are connected by adhesion.

5. Hydro-mount according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the spring element (3) and the protective layer (6) are connected to each other adhesion-free.

6. Hydro-mount according to one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the protective layer (6) covers the entire surface (7) of the spring element (3) facing the work space (5) and is at least in partial touching contact with it.

7. Hydro-mount according to Claim 6, characterized in that the protective layer (6) is in complete touching contact with the surface (7).

8. Hydro-mount according to one of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the protective layer (6) consists of EPDM.

9. Hydro-mount according to one of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the ratio of the thickness of the spring element (3) at its thickest point to the thickness of the protective layer (6), both considered in the longitudinal direction of the hydro-mount, amounts to at least 2.

10. Hydro-mount according to one of Claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the protective layer (6) has a thickness from 1 to 8 mm.

11. Hydro-mount according to one of Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the protective layer (6) has the same thickness in all parts thereof.

Abstract

A ~~H~~hydro-mount comprising a support bearing ~~(1)~~ and an end bearing ~~(2)~~ which support each other by means of a spring element ~~(3)~~ made of a resilient material; ~~the~~ The spring element ~~(3)~~ encloses ~~ing~~ a work space ~~(5)~~ filled with a damping liquid ~~(4)~~. The spring element ~~(3)~~ is made of silicone and on its side facing the work space ~~(5)~~ is provided with a protective layer ~~(6)~~ consisting of a material that is resistant to the damping liquid ~~(4)~~ and is impervious thereto.